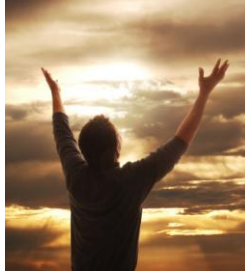


December 20, 2009
"PRAISE", *Daily Disciple*, page 363



PSALM

I do not hide your righteousness in my heart;
I speak of your faithfulness and salvation.
I do not conceal your love and your truth
from the great assembly.

(Psalm 40:10)

MEDITATION

“And, hence, the most pious have always been the most regular and constant in their family devotions. Indeed, we have never seen any very strong indications of vital piety where family worship has been neglected.”

(Robert Milligan, *A Brief Treatise on Prayer*, pages 35)

SCRIPTURE

⁹And when he had taken it, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb. Each one had a harp and they were holding golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. ¹⁰And they sang a new song:

"You are worthy to take the scroll
and to open its seals,
because you were slain,
and with your blood you purchased men for God
from every tribe and language and people and nation.

¹⁰You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God,
and they will reign on the earth."

(Revelation 5:8-10)

PRAYER

“Awesome God, may I praise you this day at home, at work, and in the great congregation of the saints present, past, and future. Christ, you are worthy! In the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, Amen.”

Digging Deeper: Finding out, discussion and sharing

1. This devotional message focuses on praising God and worship.
2. Read Psalm 40 and answer the following questions:
 - a. What would you say the major theme of this Psalm is?
 - b. Read Psalm 40:9.
 - c. "I proclaim righteousness" (in the Greek Old Testament) is the same phrase used in the New Testament for preaching the good news!
 - d. According to verses 9 & 10, what is the good news that the Psalmist is proclaiming?
 - e. Read Psalm 40:1 and notice what good news this Psalm starts off with!
 - f. When was it good news for you to realize that "God turned to me and heard my cry?"
 - g. Here is a vital and important point for this Psalm: David's proclamation of good news is rooted in God responding to his difficult circumstances.
 - h. How would it change the complexion of our corporate worship experience if we were intently aware that all of our "acts of worship" were really a collective response to the good news of God's activity among us?
3. In Robert Milligan's meditation, he points out that that family worship and devotions provide the foundation for a vital and strong spiritual life.
 - a. Do you agree?
 - b. Did you grow up in a family that had regular devotions?
 - c. In your mind, what would constitute the ideal family devotion?
 - d. What keeps your family, and other families, from engaging in this?
4. Read Revelation 5:8-10.
 - a. Read Revelation 4. Where does the events in chapters 4 & 5 occur?
 - b. What did the four living creatures and 24 elders do before the Lamb?
 - c. I find it fascinating that this heavenly scene around the throne and before the Lamb depicts "heavenly worship" as being comprised of music and prayers.
 - d. What do the golden bowls of incense represent?
 - e. "Worship" comes from an Old English word meaning "worthiness." These verses certainly speak to the worthiness of the Lamb.
 - f. Why is the Lamb the only one worthy of taking the scroll and opening its seals?
 - g. According to Revelation, what is the Lamb worthy of receiving?
 - h. Think of the praise hymn "Worthy is the Lamb." Three times in chapter 5 heavenly beings sing about the worthiness of this Lamb. Look at those three occurrences and then discuss: *How does one ascribe worthiness to the Lamb, and what do you say?* What does this tell us about the nature of worship?
5. In the prayer offered at the end of the devotional lesson, the prayer begins by ascribing the word "Awesome" to God. When you use this word to address God, what are ascribing to Him?
6. If praise defines our worshipful response to a worthy Lamb and an Awesome God, what might this mean in our corporate assemblies?
7. Why are most of our prayer requests about ourselves and our needs, and we spend little time ascribing praise to God and Jesus?
8. Does praise have the power of being able to shape us as God's faithful people?